

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated July 16, 2004. Claims 1-41 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-41 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-41 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-41 are in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

**§102 and §103 Rejections**

Claims 1-15 and 19-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Saito (U.S. Pat. No. 6,741,991).

Claims 16-18 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito in view of Takashima et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,701,343).

Applicant submits that the independent claims (claims 1 and 20) are patentable over Saito and Takashima.

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a content management method for data storage and a content storage system. The claims recite encryption of the data according to a content key, encryption of the content key according to a first storage key, and encryption of the content key according to a second storage key. Each of the claims further recites that "the second storage key is generated at a different location than the first storage key."

Neither Saito nor Takashima discloses using different locations for the generation of the first storage key and the second storage key. In particular, Applicant notes that Saito discloses

that both secret-keys are generated by a single means (see e.g. Saito col. 6, line 52; col. 10, line 46; col. 14, lines 46-47).

Since neither Saito nor Takashima discloses using different locations for the generation of the first storage key and the second storage key, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 20 are patentable over Saito and Takashima, taken alone or in combination, on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicant submits that claims 2-19 and 21-41 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with claims 1 and 20.

Applicant submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicant's undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

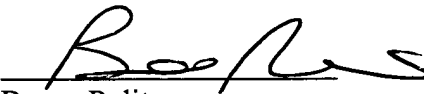
The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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